

REMARKS

Currently, claims 1-22 are pending. Claims 20-22 are newly-presented.

Abstract

5 A new Abstract is submitted in accordance with the Examiner's requirement. Entry is requested.

Claim Objections

Claims 1-16 were objected to based upon informalities.

10 Claim 1 has been substantially corrected in accordance with the Examiner's suggestions and Applicant submits that the claim 1 is clear.

15 With regard to the Examiner's assertion that "each said terminal", now "each terminal" lacks antecedent basis, Applicant disagrees. Claim 1 specifies a plurality of ribs extending from a housing. The ribs are spaced apart from each other such that a slot is defined between adjacent ribs. At least one terminal is positioned within each said slot and is connected to the housing. Therefore, this defines a plurality of terminals, since there are a plurality of slots. Thus, to state "each said terminal" or "each terminal" to define characteristics of each of the terminals is correct.

20 Claims 2, 3, 5 and 9 have been amended to provide proper antecedent basis and/or clarify the claims.

Reconsideration and withdrawal of the objection is requested.

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. §102

25 Claims 1, 2, 10, 17 and 18 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by United States Patent No. 5,411,408 to DiViesti et al. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection is requested.

Independent claims 1 and 17 have been amended to specify that at least a portion of the slots in which the terminals are held are open to said outer sides of the first and second housing

base walls. This provides for the terminals, which are held in the slots, to be exposed from the housing and thus to the environment, such that air can flow over the terminals to dissipate heat from the terminals.

DiViesti provides a connector where the slots are open to the top, inner and bottom sides of the first and second housing base walls, but not to the outer sides of the first and second housing base walls. As a result, the terminals in DiViesti are substantially encapsulated within the housing. This does not allow the substantial exposure of the terminals to the environment. As a result, heat is not easily dissipated from the terminal when air flows thereover. Applicant submits that there is no suggestion to modify DiViesti in this manner, absent reading Applicant's description of this invention.

Reconsideration and allowance of claims 1 and 17 is requested.

Claims 2, 10 and 18 are dependent upon either claim 1 or 17 which Applicant submits is allowable. Therefore, Applicant submits that these claims are allowable. Reconsideration and allowance is requested.

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. §103

Claims 3-9 and 11-16 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103 as being unpatentable over DiViesti et al. Claims 3-9 and 11-16 are dependent upon claim 1 which Applicant submits is allowable. Therefore, Applicant submits that these claims are allowable. Reconsideration and allowance is requested.

Newly-Presented Claims

Claims 20-22 are newly-presented. Independent claim 20 specifies that at least a portion of the slots in which the terminals are held are open to said outer sides of the first and second housing base walls. As discussed herein, DiViesti does not disclose or suggest same and therefore, claim 20 is allowable. The claims 21 and 22 are dependent upon claim 20. Entry, consideration and allowance of claims 20-22 is requested.

Application No. 10/538,487

Attorney Docket No. A1-231 US

A Petition for a Three-Month Extension of Time is concurrently submitted herewith to extend the date for response up to and including November 16, 2006.

Should the Examiner believe that a telephone conversation will facilitate the prosecution of the above-identified application, the Examiner is invited to call Applicant's attorney.

Respectfully submitted,

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